



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15/B
PATENT
22845.032-7

Lowman
2-14-03

In re patent application of:
HIROSHI MURAKAMI, ET AL.

Group Art Unit: 2166

Examiner: Robert W. Morgan

Serial No. 09/349,423

Filed: July 7, 1999

For: VEHICLE SHARING SYSTEM AND
METHOD INVOLVING RESERVING
VEHICLES WITH HIGHEST
STATES OF CHARGE

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Los Angeles, California
May 17, 2001

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C., 20231

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 28, 2001.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111 and 1.121, kindly amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Substitute the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following:

BI
According to yet another aspect of the invention, a shared vehicle system and method involves allocating vehicles from a group of available vehicles and returning vehicles to the group upon detection of a parking state while the vehicle is located at a port. A port is a vehicle staging area where vehicles may be parked prior to being allocated to a user. A typical port contains a user kiosk containing a computer terminal for interacting with the shared vehicle system. Throughout this disclosure the term "kiosk" will be used to mean a kiosk with a user terminal. The terms kiosk and terminal shall be used interchangeably herein. In preferred embodiments, the detection of a parking state is accomplished by, for example, the detection of the setting of the